

**WASHINGTON, DC** - Congressmen Lee Terry (R-NE) and Mark Kennedy (R-MN) last night won another battle against the massive reductions in Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG Grants) funding. The House of Representatives last night approved their amendment, restoring \$50 million by an overwhelming, bipartisan vote of 291-129.

The White House has attempted for several years to eliminate funding for Byrne-JAG under the Science/State/Justice/Commerce (SSJC) appropriations bill - forcing many states to terminate Byrne-JAG funded task forces which are critical to combat methamphetamine and to identify and destroy organized drug trafficking.

**"The State of Nebraska could be forced to eliminate 9 of 11 task forces without an increase in Byrne-JAG funding," Terry said. "I am pleased our amendment was approved to restore \$50 million for this vital program. The proposed \$367 million funding level was not enough to meet the needs of drug task forces nationwide. It would have crippled the effectiveness of narcotics officers and jeopardized the gains made in reducing nationwide violent crime to a 30-year low. The joint task forces built over the past 15 years to combat drugs cannot be easily rebuilt if Congress cuts Byrne grants."**

**"At a time when 80% of the meth in this country is pouring in from international superlabs like those in , the federal government has a duty to help local law enforcement to keep this poison off our streets," Kennedy said. "That is why I cannot understand why some, including the Administration, would propose to eliminate the Byrne-JAG Program. For those of us who represent highly rural and exurban areas, these vital grants, and the police officers they help support, are critical to efforts to keep drugs out of our communities and away from our children."**

On the house floor, Terry and Kennedy proposed an amendment to add \$50 million to Byrne-JAG for Fiscal Year 2007 by reducing the \$72 million funding increase planned for the U.S. Census. The Byrne-JAG program is one of the most important tools state and local law enforcement agencies have in fostering cooperation in the intergovernmental fight against drug

trafficking on 's streets.

In April, Terry and Kennedy successfully spearheaded a successful effort to include \$900 million for Byrne-JAG within the House Budget Resolution for FY07. However, appropriators chose to only include \$367 million for Byrne in the proposed bill debated last night -- falling far short of what is needed by state and local law enforcement and what has been authorized by Congress. Many states, including Nebraska and Minnesota, use this funding to combat methamphetamine. Over 95% of drug arrests nationwide are made by state and local police officers.

A bipartisan group of colleagues joined Terry and Kennedy in this effort to ensure local law enforcement has the resources needed to control and help eliminate drug threats. These Members of Congress include Representatives Bart Stupak (D-MI), Jim Ramstad (R-MN), Mark Souder (R-IN), Steve King (R-IA), Rick Larsen (D-WA), Jim Matheson (D-UT), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Lincoln Davis (D-TN), Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE), and Darlene Hooley (D-OR).

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